

Act, to reassert Congress' role as a co-equal branch of government by addressing the vulnerabilities exploited by the former President and his enablers to weaken our democracy, undermine the rule of law, and subvert the systems of checks and balances enshrined by the Framers in our Constitution.

The House may also consider legislation to address the debt limit and prevent a manufactured economic catastrophe that would derail our recovery from the pandemic and cause needless suffering to millions of American families.

I would reiterate that while we don't know the exact date at which America will be unable to pay its bills, we will address this next week, hopefully, in a bipartisan fashion.

Moreover, the House will be ready to act on H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act, should the Senate amend it and send it back to the House.

Lastly, of course, additional legislative items are possible.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that update. As it relates to tomorrow's schedule, as the gentleman from Maryland said, it could be fluid, depending on how the CR is processed in the Senate. If the CR does not pass the Senate tonight, are there bills that are specifically designated to come up tomorrow, or is that a to-be-determined issue?

Mr. HOYER. We have a list of suspension bills, which has been announced and has been on our calendar for consideration. Those would be the pieces of legislation with which we would deal, pending action by the Senate.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that update.

As it relates to the debt ceiling, we had a discussion a few weeks ago relating to the debt ceiling. Would there be a bipartisan negotiation? We haven't had that so far. Is there anticipation that there would be a plan to try to engage both sides in a negotiation on the debt ceiling, or is this something that we are just going to have to wait to see next week?

Mr. HOYER. Well, I think we will probably have to wait to see exactly what is going to happen. As the gentleman knows, we have passed a debt limit twice through this House. There has been a problem in the Senate, and I would expect Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL will be discussing that in the next few days.

Senator MCCONNELL has made it very clear that he thinks that failing to protect the full faith and credit of the United States of America would have dire adverse consequences, so he has made it very clear he thinks we ought not to do that. Senator SCHUMER has done the same.

Essentially, my answer to the gentleman is, we have passed it twice in one form or another, so we can pass it and will pass it once the Senate agrees on a version. The two leaders are discussing that, I am sure. Now, I haven't

talked to either one of them, but that is my premise.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, then we will see what develops from that discussion.

As it relates to the National Defense Authorization Act, and as the gentleman pointed out, we are aware there are bipartisan negotiations between both the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats.

I share the hope and expectation that they can come to an agreement. There are a few final details that both sides are trying to work out. I think they have already agreed, which we both share, that our troops deserve a pay raise, need a pay raise, and that number has been agreed to.

Hopefully, that is part of this, as well as the proper funding levels for our Nation's defense as we see threats emerging throughout the world. We also know the detriment of not having proper defense funding because they can't enter into the contracts that are necessary.

Both of those conversations seem to be, from what we are hearing, going well. Hopefully, that is a bill that can come to the floor next week, and we can all come together to help pass that.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman for any comments.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I agree with his comments. It is my understanding, although I haven't talked personally, but it is my understanding that introducing the conference-agreed bill in the House, and passing it through the House will, under Senate procedures, facilitate them resolving this issue, hopefully, in a positive way next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, there are two specific pieces of legislation I would like to ask the gentleman to look at.

One is, by the end of the year, as you know, there are some potential cuts coming to entities like Medicare if Congress doesn't take action. There is a bipartisan bill that members of the Doctors Caucus and other members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and other committees of jurisdiction have worked on. It is H.R. 6020. That would stave off those cuts to our healthcare providers.

It would need to be passed by the end of the year—otherwise, those cuts would automatically kick in—if the gentleman could take a look at that bill and see if that is something we could do in a bipartisan way before we leave for the year.

Another would be, you and I have had this conversation successfully on other legislation dealing with ALS. The Steve Gleason Act was one of those; there are others. I have spoken to Steve Gleason recently. There is a piece of legislation that we were able to work on that got out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce unanimously. It is H.R. 3537, the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act.

I would just ask if the gentleman could look at that bill. It came out unanimously, bipartisan, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and it is something that, obviously, would help a lot of people who could use that help.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I agree with the gentleman. We have talked to the sponsor, and we have talked to others. I expect this bill to be on the floor next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, that would be great news to so many people across the country.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. With respect to the issues that I think we have broad agreement on, the cliffs that were created on Medicare and sequester are not good policy, and we ought to act on those. We are very seized of that issue, and hopefully, we can resolve something next week.

The gentleman mentions doing it in a bipartisan fashion. The good news is, and I know the gentleman will agree, that earlier this year, we delayed to January 1 of this coming year these items, particularly the 2 percent sequester by a vote of 90-2 in the Senate, meaning only two people voted against it, and in the House, 384. We were unanimous on our side, but you had the overwhelming majority on your side as well. So by 384-38, we extended that.

I am hopeful that we will do that again in a bipartisan way because not to do so, I think, would be very harmful to the medical community, to the country, and, obviously, to patients that are served by the medical community.

I am hopeful that we can resolve that as early as next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I share that sentiment the gentleman had, and hopefully, we can achieve those bipartisan victories.

As you mentioned, H.R. 3537 would be a tremendous victory for people who struggle with ALS to continue to seek out new therapies and be able to live their lives in the best way possible. I appreciate the gentleman's past efforts as well as the offer to bring that bill to the floor next week.

Madam Speaker, if the gentleman doesn't have anything else, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the four students murdered and the teacher and six students injured in the Oxford High School shooting in my home county.

My own daughter was not in school today and will not be tomorrow due to threats of copycat violence. Many school districts across metro Detroit have closed altogether.

This is a terrifying time to be a parent, a school professional, a law enforcement officer, and, Lord knows, a child.

This was the deadliest school shooting since 2018, the year our children rose up and asked us to take action. The House has passed several bills to curb gun violence, yet Congress as a whole has not enacted a single new law for our kids.

This father urges our colleagues in the Senate to act, no more thoughts and prayers, but to act at long last.

I send my deepest condolences to the families and friends of Hana, Tate, Madisyn, and Justin. When we say never again, let's mean it this time.

#### WARREN COUNTY TAX HOLIDAY

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, inflation is at the highest level that we have seen in decades and rising. The cost of buying a home is up. The cost to fill your gas tank is up. The cost to feed your family is up. Even the cost of buying Christmas presents for your children or grandchildren is up.

While the pandemic certainly bears some blame, the failed policies of the Biden administration have made things considerably worse. His administration and his allies here in Congress have spent trillions of dollars that we don't have, which inevitably will lead to higher taxes and higher prices for items that hardworking Americans buy every day.

Despite the bad news nationally, one county in my congressional district actually has good news for its residents. Warren County Commissioners Tom Grossmann, Shannon Jones, and David Young announced recently that they would not be collecting property taxes from their residents this year. The commissioners are able to do this by exercising fiscal responsibility, as we ought to do here in the House, and putting aside money for a rainy day, rather than spending money that they didn't have.

Kudos to the Warren County commissioners for giving their taxpayers a little extra holiday cheer this year.

#### A DIMINISHED SUPREME COURT

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I mourn the loss of the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

As a lawyer, I have always had respect for the Court as the highest court in the land dispensing justice, but starting with *Bush v. Gore*, it became more political.

In *Shelby v. Holder*, it emasculated the Voting Rights Act, destroying section 5 and taking the basic fundamental principles of democracy away from so many people.

In *Citizens United*, it gave the rich and the powerful more and more money.

And then yesterday, it took away women's right to choose.

To hear some of the arguments from Justice Kavanaugh, to say abortion is not in the Constitution so we should leave it to the States, well, high-speed internet is not in the Constitution either, but the courts can hear cases on that. Nuclear power is not in the Constitution, but the Court will hear cases on that.

To hear Justice Barrett say women can just go a little longer and give birth to those children because there will be somebody there that wants to adopt that child, deciding for the mothers that they will have to bear that child might cost them their life. Childbearing is not without risk and takes them away from other things.

Unfortunately, the Court is very diminished.

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#### MANIPULATION OF GAS PRICES

(Mr. FITZGERALD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration's energy agenda is a disaster. The President's decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline cost hundreds of jobs in Wisconsin and undermined our Nation's energy independence, and his policies have made energy prices soar.

As a result, the American people are paying the price at the gas pump. Part of my district, the Fifth Congressional District in southeastern Wisconsin, is an EPA-designated ozone nonattainment zone, another contributor to the very high gas prices that we are seeing.

This designation requires area gas stations to use more expensive, reformulated gasoline. The increased cost of the reformulated gas is passed on to consumers, resulting in gas prices 10 to 15 cents higher in some counties in my district, compared to the county right next to it.

The irony is that President Biden is blaming oil and gas companies for manipulating gas prices and is encouraging the FTC to investigate. In reality, it is the administration's old, failed policies that are responsible for the manipulation of the gas prices. The truth is Americans cannot afford this way of life.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES AMONG BLACK WOMEN

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the maternal health crisis in this country is dire, with the United States being the only developed country in the world experiencing a rise in maternal mortality rates.

It is even more dire for Black women, who are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications.

This is no coincidence. For centuries, systemic racism has harmed the mental, physical, and economic well-being of Black and Brown people. Thanks to the leadership of Black women in Congress, Congresswoman UNDERWOOD, Congresswoman SEWELL, Congresswoman ADAMS, and more, who are driving the momnibus, this body is working to bring us out of a Black maternal health crisis.

Madam Speaker, I rise for my sisters and their babies who are more than a statistic and deserve to be holistically treated and cared for. Black moms matter.

I urge my colleagues to support the momnibus and join us in our effort to protect Black women and Black mothers.

#### RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM "ROBBIE" ROBERTSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the service of Brigadier General William "Robbie" Robertson on his retirement from the Illinois Air National Guard.

A Peoria native, General Robertson served 41 years in the Armed Forces, much of it as a member of Peoria's 182nd Airlift Wing of the Illinois National Guard. He served in various capacities as a security policeman, a pilot, a forward air controller, chief of operations, wing commander, and chief of staff for the Illinois Air National Guard.

General Robertson was integral in making the 182nd one of the best C-130 units in the country. During General Robertson's time at the 182nd, the unit earned five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, and nine times reached the highest C-130 Hercules mission capable rates in Air Mobility Command.

General Robertson is known throughout the Peoria community for his steady leadership and integrity. He is beloved by those who worked with him and know him.

I want to thank him for his service to our country and to our community and wish him well in his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING GORDON RATHER

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gordon Rather and